visa either directly to the Bahrain Government or to the nearest British Consulate which will, after reference to the Bahrain Government, accept or reject the application on the latter's behalf. Passengers arriving in Bahrain without visas are likely to find themselves on the next plane outward bound. 486

Travellers from Bahrain who require visas for other countries must apply for them to H.B.M.'s Political Agency. In some cases the Agency is able to issue these visas on behalf of the foreign countries, but in the case of others it will be found necessary to apply for visas directly to the nearest consulate of the country concerned. H.B.M's Political Agency are in a position to inform prospective travellers about the latest regulations on this subject.

TAXES

There is no income tax in Bahrain, but for owners of houses and other premises within the Municipal areas of Manama, Muharraq, Hedd and Rifaa there is a small Municipal tax. 651

WATER AND ELECTRICITY

Within the Municipal area of Manama both water and electricity is provided by the State. 312 377

Within the Municipal area of Muharraq electricity only is provided by the State. 655

Rates for these amenities are as follows :—

Electricity.	*Water.*
First 50 units per month, 4 *annas* per unit.	1,000 gallons *Rs.*1 *As.*14.
Next 200 units per month, 3 *annas* per unit.	Meter rent, 8 annas per month.
Over 250 units per month, 2 *annas* per unit.	Minimum charge, *Rs.*1 *As.*14 per month.
Meter rent 8 *annas* per month.	
Minimum charge *Rs.*1 or 4 units per month.	

CURRENCY

Local currency in use in Bahrain at the time of writing is the Indian Rupee, worth, at the current rate of exchange, 1/6d. 436

Coinage is as follows :—

12 pice make 1 anna.
4 pies make 1 anna.
16 annas make 1 rupee.

The following coins and notes are in circulation :—

1 pice (1/12 anna)	.. copper	1 rupee	.. nickel and note
1 pie (1/12 anna)	.. copper	2 rupees	.. .. note
1 anna ..	nickel and brass	5 rupees	.. .. note
2 annas ..	nickel and brass	10 rupees	.. .. note
4 annas ..	.. nickel	100 rupees	.. note
8 annas ..	.. nickel		

804 The Chow is also used as the nominal weight in Bombay by the pearl traders, but the Bombay Chow weighs only one-fourth the Bahrein.

CURRENCY

436 Indian money is the national currency. The rupee, a silver coin about the size of a United States half-dollar, is the basic unit and is worth about thirty cents, its sterling equivalent being ls. 6d. The rupee is divided into 16 *annas* (sing., *anna*).

Other silver coins are:

Half rupee	= 8 annas
Quarter rupee	= 4 annas
Eighth rupee	= 2 annas
Pice	= ¼ anna
½ Pice	= ⅛ anna

Copper coins less than one anna in value are also in circulation. There are 12 pies to an anna, or 192 pies to a rupee.

Indian paper currency is also in general use.[1] Besides the rupee the Persian *rial*[2]; (about $0.29), the Saudi Arabian *riyal*,[3] the Maria Theresa Thaler, (about $.45), and the Turkish pound, or *lira*, (about $3.60), are also in limited use.

STAMPS

205 Up to 1947, the stamps of Bahrein were the old stamps of British India, with the word "Bahrain" over-printed across in black ink.[4] However, since the division of Indian colony into Dominions of India and Pakistan, the stamps used in Bahrein are those of United Kingdom with the word "BAHRAIN" and values in rupees over-printed in black ink. The Sheikdom has adhered to the International Postal Union and its membership in that organization is the only international agreement signed by Bahrein.

[648]

1. One hundred thousand rupees is called a *lakh*, and is written Rs. 1,00,000.
2. The Persian rial is fixed by the law of 1932 at a value of 0.07322382 grammes of gold.
3. The Saudi Arabian riyal was declared in 1940 to be equivalent to the Indian rupee.
4. The British and American differ in spelling the name of the island. Throughout the book we have followed the American use.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
BahrainMZ2
QatarMK3

so much that was orderly and progressive had been done already. In the days of Shaikh Hamad (1923–42) conditions in the pearl industry had been reformed, and municipalities, education, and other public services had been developed. These are now being further expanded. The state provides free medical services for all its people and free education in primary and secondary schools and in a technical school; in 1953 there were 4,700 boys and 2,300 girls at school, at a budget cost of 2½ million rupees per annum.

Socially, the impact of good employment in the oil company has been more widespread in Bahrain than in Kuwait, firstly because of the much longer period during which the company has been operating and secondly because it policy, unlike that of the Kuwait Oil Company, is to transport its local workers daily from homes in neighbouring towns instead of constructing a special township near the oilfield. Both policies present certain advantages; one effect of the former is to integrate the oil company into the daily life of the state. Yet there are so far no Bahrainis in BAPCO's senior administrative grades since all local men of this calibre have so far preferred to find jobs in commerce, with its prospects of a larger and speedier return for effort. As in Kuwait, more and more well-to-do merchants are sending sons abroad for education and it is an open question how these will react to the autocratic rule of a family in years to come.

The unit of currency in Bahrain is the Indian rupee. Imports constituted in 1952 about double the value of exports and re-exports (£14·6 million as against £7·4 million). More than half the latter were to Saudi Arabia, the balance chiefly to Qatar and to Persia with which, despite Persia's shortage of hard currency, there continues to be a considerable volume of barter trade.

QATAR

The Shaikhdom of Qatar comprises the peninsula of that name, lying midway along the western coast of the Persian Gulf. It has an area of about 8,000 square miles with a population of some 25,000. From a dangerous coast-line the land rises to a low, monotonous plateau. The main water-supplies are from wells. Its only land frontier—that with Saudi Arabia—has never been demarcated.

Qatar has been in relations with Great Britain since 1882. An agreement with Britain of 3 November 1916 had provisions similar to those with the other Trucial shaikhs, and included a clause making the grant of pearling concessions or other mono-

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

Currency

436 Rupees and other Indian coins are the most popular medium of exchange, but the *riyāl* or Maria Theresa dollar is largely current during the pearling season, as the divers, who are chiefly Arabs from the mainland, are used to it and averse from change. The Turkish *lira* passes at about Rs. 14. The ordinary unit for small values is an imaginary coin called the Bahrein *qrān*, worth two-fifths of a rupee. The *tawīlah* of Hasa (see p. 302) is accepted, though not gladly, as the equivalent of ½ anna.

Weights and Measures

804 A want of uniformity in local weights hampers the retail trade carried on by British Indian subjects, and the introduction of standard weights is much to be desired. The following is a table of local weights :—

Ruba' Mithqāl	=	0·04 lb. English.
Nisf Mithqāl	=	0·08 ,,
Mithqāl	=	0·16 ,,
Nisf Ruba' eth-Thamīn	=	0·32 ,,
Ruba' eth-Thamīn	=	0·64 ,,
Thulth Thamīn	=	0·86 ,,
Nisf Thamīn	=	1·29 ,,
Qiyās	=	1·54 ,,
Thamīn	=	2·57 ,,
Alf	=	3·09 ,,
Ruba'	=	4·11 ,,
Mann	=	57·60 ,,
Rafa'ah	=	576·00 ,,

The following is a table of linear measure :—

6 Sha'arāt Bardhūn (mule hairs)	=	1 Habbat Sha'īr (barley corn).
6 Habbat Sha'īr	=	1 Asba' (finger breadth), plur. Asābi'.
4 Asābi'	=	1 Qabdhah (fist), plur. Qabdhāt.
6 Qabdhāt	=	1 Dhrā' (cubit), plur. Adhru'.
4 Adhru'	=	1 Bā' (fathom).
1,000 Bā'	=	1 Mīl (plur. Amyāl) Hāshimi (mile).
3 Amyāl	=	1 Farsakh (hour's walk).
4 Farsakh	=	1 Barīd (post runner's stage).
3⅓ Barīd	=	1 Darjah (degree).
360 Darjah	=	1 Dā'irat el-Ardh (circuit of the earth)